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Communications on subjects of interest to the profession are invited. The "Journal" is not responsible for the views advanced by correspondents. Address letters relating to the "Journal" to the publication office, 31 Post Street, San Francisco.

MARCH, 1903.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The attention of the members of the State Society is directed to the announcements printed elsewhere concerning the annual meeting to be held in April at Santa Barbara. Arrangements have been made to meet at the Potter Hotel, the new and commodious hotel recently opened, and while there undoubtedly will be a large attendance at this meeting, the hotel accommodations are ample to meet the requirements. The sessions of the Society will be of unusual interest this year, several very important matters coming before the legislative branch, and the scientific program promising to be more instructive and of greater scope than customarily. The social features of the meeting have not been overlooked by the committee, and side excursions to points of interest in the southern sections of the State have been provided for, making the trip to be undertaken by northern delegates and guests one of pleasure as well as profit. On the evening of the last day's session there is to be a special dinner given at the Potter. As the membership of the State Society now is over 1000, with some County Society additions to be made between this time and the meeting, the thirty-third annual meeting will bring together representatives from every part of the State, and the exchange of fraternal greetings by members of the profession living in this great empire of California can only be productive of good. During the year just closing the achievements in medicine and surgery have been most marked, and the reports of the committees on the various subjects assigned them on the scientific program will furnish a compendium of medical progress of the greatest interest and value to the profession. Prompt response should be made to the circular about to be sent to members, so that provision may be made at Santa Barbara for the entertainment of delegates and others who may attend the meeting.

THE MEETING AT SANTA BARBARA.

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Elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL will be found the statement in outline of a proposed association of honest men; of honest physicians, pharmacists and manufacturers, intended not alone for mutual protection and benefit, but for the protection as well of the direct charge of the physician—the public. Thieves, scoundrels and patent-medicine fakers have long appreciated the advantage accruing from the association of common interests; but honest men seem as yet to realize it only to a limited degree and trifling extent. The keynote of the plan of this proposed Bureau is the association of honest men, of those whose primary intent is to be honest in spite of competition, and to brand the product of honest manufacture in such a way that the purchaser may have assurance that he is getting what he pays for and what the label on the package calls for. As conditions are at present, little or no reliance is to be placed upon the legend of the average label, even when it bears the name of a firm believed to be honest and reliable. The extract may or may not be "U. S. P."; if it is, it is probably different in many essentials from the supposedly identical extracts made by other houses; the preparation which the physician is urged to "try on his patients" may or may not contain only the active ingredients mentioned in the statements of the manufacturer, and in the quantity given—no one knows but the manufacturer; the food-stuff recommended may or may not be wholesome, and may or may not correspond with the "analysis" furnished by some unknown chemist. Who is to separate the good from the bad? The manufacturer can not do it himself, nor can any single individual; the government can not undertake the work, and if it did the result, if one may judge from the way government undertakings of the sort generally do result, would be even worse than present conditions. But the great professional interests of the country can erect a scientific machine that without personality or prejudice can stand between the manufacturer on the one hand and the purchaser and consumer on the other, and can say of such articles as it has examined and undertakes to supervise, "This thing is pure, or is good; you may rely upon it."

THE PUBLIC TO BE PROTECTED.

For many years the Register of Physicians in California, formerly published by the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, has been a very useful volume. The changes in the State law, together with the retirement of the former Secretary, have resulted in the abandonment of the publication of this volume by the Board of Examiners. It has been

THE REGISTER OF PHYSICIANS.